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STATE OF VERMONT
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

To: House Appropriations Committee

From: House Education Committee

Date: January 26, 2023

Subject: Budget Adjustment Act

Dear Chair Lanpher:

The House Education Committee has reviewed the education-related BAA proposals and supports the administration's proposals for use of remaining ARP/ESSER set-aside funds; reversions to both the General Fund and to the Education Fund; and proposed uses of funds for obligated expenses.

Most notably, the Agency of Education has requested flexibility in spending the remaining ARP/ESSER set-aside funds to support initiatives already using federal funds in order to expend all federal dollars on important programs benefiting schools and children. The HEC supports providing this flexibility.

Regarding reversions and uses of General Fund dollars as proposed by the Agency of Education, the Committee supports the proposals.

Regarding reversions within the Education Fund, the Committee understands the reasons for the unspent dollars and supports their reversion to the fund.

The Committee requests some additional language be included in the policy section of the BAA permanently suspending a mandate that all school districts use the same financial software. The suspension of this mandate has been year-by-year for the past two

years while stakeholders met with the AOE to discuss whether the software met the needs of the both the school districts and the AOE. Both the AOE and the stakeholder group have agreed that the mandate should be permanently suspended as the target software has failed to meet the needs of many districts using it, and it should not be required of any district in the state due to its shortcomings. The language is below and will be emailed to your Committee Assistant.

The purpose of including this in BAA is communicate as early as possible to school districts that they need not continue to be concerned about this required software mandate in their future planning.

If you have any questions concerning this change, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rep. Peter Conlon

Chair, House Education Committee

Sec. W. 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. E.500.1, as amended by 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. E.500.5, 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 15, and 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.500.2, is further amended to read:

Sec. E.500.1. SHARED SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL DATA

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

(a) Not later than December 31, 2024, all Vermont supervisory unions, supervisory districts, school districts, and independent technical center districts shall utilize the same school finance and financial data management system. The system shall be selected by the Agency of Education per State procurement guidelines. [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. X. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 16, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.500.3, is further amended to read:

Sec. 16. PAUSE SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SHARED

SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL DATA MANAGEMENT

SYSTEM

Notwithstanding Sec. E.500.1 of 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, as amended, the mandatory implementation of the Shared School District Data Management System (SSDDMS) shall be paused until July 1, 2023 permanently suspended, provided that:

(1) the Agency of Education and its contractor for implementation of the system shall continue to support existing users and any new adopters, as of the date of enactment of this act, of the system; and , within the confines of the existing contract.

(2) a supervisory union, supervisory district, school district, or independent technical center district may implement or leave SSDDMS during the pause period after consultation with the Agency of Education and upon approval by its governing body. [Repealed.]

Sec. Y. REPEAL

2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 17, as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.500.4 (Agency of Education report on the implementation of the Shared School District Data Management System), is repealed.

Sec. Z. EFFECTIVE DATE

Secs. W, X, and Y shall take effect on passage.